

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action has been carefully considered. The issues raised are traversed and addressed below with reference to the relevant headings and paragraph numbers appearing under the Detailed Action of the Office Action.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has objected to the claims on the basis of a combination of Milovanovic et al and Bobrow et al. We have carefully reviewed these documents and we respectfully submit that these documents do not anticipate the claims.

Having reviewed Milovanovic et al, it is clear that, in contrast to the Examiner's assertion, this document does not describe the use of a sensing device containing an identity data.

The only references in Milovanovic et al that refer to identification of the user, is the reference in column 4, line 23 to a "user address" and in column 4, line 27 to verifying the authenticity of the user. In this regard, there is nothing to suggest that the user address is indicative of the user's identity and therefore may merely be an IP address of the user's work station. Furthermore, no particular method of verifying the user is described. It will therefore be assumed that this can be achieved in accordance with standard techniques, and such may not require the use of identity data.

In any event, even if the Examiner were to assume that the authentication requires identity data, which we respectfully submit is not the case, we would highlight that this identity data would typically be provided in accordance with standard techniques, via the work station.

In contrast to this, claim 1 explicitly requires that the computer system receive identity data from a sensing device with the sensing device storing the identity data. There is no such disclosure in Milovanovic et al, and it is clear that Milovanovic et al would use a standard barcode sensor which would not operate to store any identity data which is indicative of the user identity.

In view of this, it is completely clear from the disclosure of Milovanovic et al that this does not describe the use of identity data as required by claim 1.

We would also highlight that despite the Examiner's assertion that Bobrow teaches debiting the user account with the copyright fee, there is no disclosure that this would be achieved on the basis of identity data, indicative of an identity of the user, and which is used to determine a user account. The only reference to debiting the user account is at column 33, lines 3 to 6, which merely indicates that the user's payment can be made for example using an electronic debit or credit. It would therefore be assumed that this would be achieved by having a user provide account details in a standard way. Thus, there is nothing to teach or suggest that identity data would be obtained from a sensing device and then used to determine a user account.

In view of this, it is evident that claim 1 is novel and inventive over the cited art, and that similar arguments apply to claim 20. We also note that a number of significant distinctions exist between the dependent claims and the cited art which the Examiner again appears to have overlooked.

For example, Milovanovic et al does not discuss recording copyright ownership against a portion of the document. In fact, Milovanovic et al does not even make it clear that charging is performed for the purpose of copyright fee collection but merely refers to charging for the provision of documents. This may therefore be done, for example, by the service provider on the basis of charging for their service of supplying their documents and not for the purpose of collecting a copyright fee relating to the document.

The Examiner indicates that Milovanovic et al teaches coded data which is substantially invisible to the naked eye. Again, there is no such indication of Milovanovic et al.

The Examiner indicates that Milovanovic et al teaches provided coded data coincident to the visible information and again we respectfully submit that this is not shown. In fact, examining Figure 3, it is clear that the barcodes 116, 118 are provided at a very distinct region of the document to the visible information 110, 112, 114. Thus, the coded data is not coincident to visible information.

Turning now to claim 15 the Examiner asserts that the Milovanovic et al teaches that the identity is now an identity of the region of the form. Again, this is clearly not shown in Milovanovic et al. The document makes it clear merely that an identifying tag is provided and does not indicate any concordance between the tag identifier and a region.

Milovanovic et al makes no reference to a map, the use of data portion identities, locations of the tags or any such reference, as required by claim 16.

Turning now to claim 29, Milovanovic does not describe a relay device in the form of a printer. In fact, we note that a printer is not even described in Milovanovic.

In view of this, we find it difficult how the Examiner can possibly justify his objections.

Furthermore, we note that once again the Examiner has merely made broad assertions regarding the contents of the prior art documents without any appropriate justification. In particular, the Examiner has merely referred to portions of the prior art documents without explicitly identifying where features of these claims are shown in these documents. We would therefore respectfully request that if the Examiner is to raise further objections against the claims, that the Examiner provided proper justification for the objections and in particular, identify where each and every feature of the claim is shown in the prior art documents, and not merely include reference to portions of the documents which the Examiner believes may be relevant.

CONCLUSION

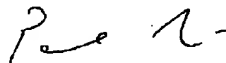
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and claim rejections have been successfully traversed and addressed. The amendments do not involve adding any information that was not already disclosed in the specification, and therefore no new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims, and the application as a whole with these claims, are allowable, and a favourable reconsideration is therefore earnestly solicited.

Very respectfully,

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